CAPITAL FROM THE CHURCH OF ST. GERMAIN DES PRES, PARIS.

of no ordinary difficulty, particularly so in this case, from the fact of having to produce a work which should stand well beside the beautiful gateway which still forms the principal feature in the group. It is but justice to Mr. Butterfield to say that he has fairly succeeded; there are exceptions, but where so much has been attained, it would seem invidious to call attention to them. It may be said generally of the buildings that they are well suited to the purposes for which they are designed and have altogether a satisfactory effect. These remarks should be understood to apply to the buildings in the quadrangle; in the street front but little has been attempted. The building is now quite ready for the warden and fifty students, but some difficulty is said to exist as to its consecration, so that no time is appointed for the opening.

Our view shows the north and east sides of the quadrangle, comprising as we before stated, the students' rooms, cloisters, library, and museum. The conduit in the centre is judiciously placed, and forms a good feature.

CAPITAL FROM THE CHURCH OF ST. GERMAIN DES PRES, PARIS.

It is always interesting and valuable to possess any specimens of ancient architecture, whether entire edifices or minute details, of which the date can be clearly and exactly authenticated; and the importance of such instances is greatly enhanced when they belong to a period of which only a few examples have escaped the ravages of time, war, and fanaticism. Part of the abbey church of St. Germain des Prés, at Paris, is of this rare description. Erected in the year 990 to the memory of a saint whose very name was an oracle in France (and is still borne by one of the most wonderful specimens of ancient caligraphy in existence), and without any regard to expense, it affords a perfect catalogue of the highest art of that distant epoch,—an epoch to which in England we can only ascribe a few dubious and unenriched memorials. A series of columns with elaborately executed capitals of large dimension, form the principal feature worthy of study, and one of these, the second column from the west, on the north aisle of the nave, is here represented, and exhibits a rudely-sculptured group of "The Nativity," designed with all the quaint characteristics of a semi-barbarous age. Upon others are depicted various symbolical devices, such as the eagle, the agnus dei, the lion and lamb (which latter strangely reminds one of a Roman work of the lower empire, preserved in the Louvre), Daniel in the Lions' den, &c. "The Annunciation," always a favourite subject, is multiplied, and there is no lack of figures both clerical and military, intended, in all probability, to illustrate different passages in the life of St. Germain. The foliage which encircles others is most intricately wrought, and approximates in its general feeling to some of the beautiful borders which present themselves in the illuminations of Anglo-Saxon MSS.*

* During the last restoration of the church, some of the capitals were found to be in too dilapidated a condition to remain as they were. Careful fac similes of them were therefore made to occupy their places, and the original fragments translated to the Hotel de Cluny.

FELIX SUMMERLY'S TRUSSES.

Annexed we give representations of a pair of Trusses, designed by Mr. Bell, for Summerly's Series of Art-Manufactures. They are pretty in intention, but, as it seems to us, wanting in architectural character. The ubiquitous Felix, who promises other decorations for buildings, would do well to enlist the aid of an architect forthwith.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

Every new bog of any depth to be crossed by rail appears to require the waste of as many thousands of pounds in the acquisition of new experience, or rather in the repetition of old, as if no bog had ever been crossed, and no experience either bought or paid for, by contractors, engineers, or companies. Whereas experience has again and again, from the very outset, proved that the means that are still persisted in have been utterly futile, except it may be in shallow bogs, at the bottom of which a moderate waste of material and labour may establish a proper foundation. Such, however, is not the general character of bogs, which probably *are* bogs, and remain so, simply because they are *not* of shallow depth, since then they would, in course of time, fill up with solid matter, and cease to be bogs. And at all events, the first duty previous to

FELIX SUMMERLY'S TRUSSES.

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